

Application No. 09/813,209  
Response to Final Office Action

Customer No. 01933

### R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

### THE CLAIMS

Independent claim 1 and corresponding independent claims 17 and 23 have been amended to clarify the features of the present invention whereby the claim handling section comprises a synonym table section for converting product unit information and problem information included in the claim content to standard terms, and whereby the claim handling section: (i) produces the new claim report in a format including at least a claim title structured as a combination of predetermined items of definition information expressed in the standard terms, based on the claim content in the format substantially similar to natural language, by using the synonym table section, (ii) searches the knowledge base section for claims similar to the new claim report, and (iii) registers the new claim report in the knowledge base section when it is confirmed that no claims similar to the new claim report are present in the knowledge base section. See (now canceled) claims 2, 18, 24 and the disclosure in the specification at, for example, pages 13-16.

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In addition, claims 3-5 have been amended to depend from claim 1; claim 19 has been amended to depend from claim 17; and claims 25-27 have been amended to depend from claim 23.

Still further, claim 3 has also been amended to better accord with amended independent claim 1, and claim 17 has been amended to correct a minor informality of which the undersigned has become aware.

No new matter has been added, and it is respectfully requested that the amendments to claims 1, 3-5, 17, 19, 23 and 25-27 be approved and entered.

#### THE PRIOR ART REJECTION

Claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 USC 102 or under 35 USC 103 as being anticipated by or obvious in view of USP 6,591,258 ("Stier et al"). These rejections, however, are respectfully traversed with respect to the claims as amended hereinabove.

According to the present invention as recited in amended independent claim 1 and corresponding amended independent claims 17 and 23 the claim handling section comprises a synonym table section for converting product unit information and problem information included in the claim content to standard terms, and the claim handling section produces the new claim report in a format including at least a claim title structured as a

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combination of predetermined items of definition information expressed in the standard terms, based on the claim content in the format substantially similar to natural language, using the synonym table section.

That is, according to the claimed present invention, the synonym table is used for converting product unit information and problem information to standard terms, and the claim handling section produces the new claim report including at least the title in the standard terms, based on the claim content in natural language, using the synonym table section.

With this structure, since standard terms are used to identify product unit and problem to obtain the title of the new claim report, the claim reports can be easily located in the knowledge base section.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Stier et al discloses a synonym table at column 8, lines 65-66, column 9, lines 45-65 and column 23, lines 52-56 thereof.

It is respectfully pointed out, however, that the cited portions of Stier et al merely explain that it is helpful to store synonyms with records, so that the records can be retrieved based on searches for a variety of terms. Thus, according to Stier et al, if many synonyms are used to describe stored "knowledge," then the knowledge can be easily found (column 8, line 65 to column 9, line 6 and column 23, lines 52-56). In

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addition, Stier et al discloses that a "standard format" with respect to capitalization, punctuation, abbreviation and tense is helpful when maintaining the knowledge base.

Thus, according to Stier et al, a plurality of synonyms may be used to describe knowledge, and knowledge is preferably stored using standard formats.

It is respectfully submitted, however, that Stier et al does not at all disclose, teach or suggest converting product unit information and problem information into standard terms and producing a new claim report including at least the title in the standard terms, based on the claim content in natural language, using the synonym table section.

That is, according to the claimed present invention, the synonym table section is used to convert product unit information and problem information into standard terms, such as common codes, and to produce a new claim report including at least the title in the standard terms. Thus, according to the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 17 and 23, input information is converted into standard terms.

By contrast, it is respectfully submitted that Stier et al merely discloses adding synonymous descriptors to knowledge to facilitate searching. That is, according to Stier et al the synonyms are merely additional descriptors that are added to make a record retrievable based on a plurality of different synonymous

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terms. Thus, the synonyms of Stier et al are not used for converting information into standard terms (as according to the claimed present invention), but rather are used to simultaneously describe information with a plurality of different (synonymous) terms.

It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that the synonyms mentioned in Stier et al do not at all correspond to the synonym table section of the present invention as recited in amended independent claims 1, 17 and 23.

And it is respectfully submitted that, although Stier et al discloses a drop-down menu in which model numbers are associated with products, Stier et al does not disclose, teach or suggest converting problem information to standard terms using a synonym table section.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent claims 1, 17 and 23, and claims 3-16, 19-22 and 25-28 respectively depending therefrom, clearly patentably distinguish over Stier et al, under 35 USC 102 as well as under 35 USC 103.

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Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.


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If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Douglas Holtz  
Reg. No. 33,902

Frishauf, Holtz, Goodman & Chick, P.C.  
220 Fifth Avenue - 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10001-7708  
Tel. No. (212) 319-4900  
Fax No. (212) 319-5101

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